

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to correct informality. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendment to the specification is merely to correct informalities raised in the Office Action; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments first raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification asserting that the reference number 6 shown in Figs. 1 and 5 is not described in the specification. The specification is amended to insert the number to obviate the objection. As such, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,871 to Watanuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,747,846 to Kato et al. (Kato). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, fabricating an element leading wire directly on a substrate to be electrically connected to the thin film magnetic head assembly, and electrically connecting the element leading wire and the circuit leading wire.

As shown in Fig. 5, for example, an element leading wire 4a is connected electrically to a circuit leading wire 21b of a thin film magnetic head assembly 10 (i.e., MR element of the thin film magnetic head assembly). The element leading wire 4a is also connected electrically to a writing element 6 so as to flow current in the writing element 6 and thus

conduct writing performance through the magnetic field originated from the writing element

6. In other words, the element leading wire 4a functions for conducting the thin film magnetic head performance such as writing and reading performance.

The Office Action admits that Watanuki does not teach or suggest this feature but alleges that Kato does. Citing col. 9, lines 11-14 and Fig. 7 of Kato, the Office Action alleges that an inside metal layer 116g of Kato contacts with substrate 101g.

However, as described at, col. 9, lines 14-18 of Kato, the inside metal layer 116g is covered with an internal metal insulating film 121, whereby electrical contact with reproducing magnetic element is prevented. That is, the inside metal layer 116g is insulated from the MR element by the internal metal insulating film 121. In other words, the inside metal layer 116g of Kato does not function for conducting the thin film magnetic head performance such as writing and reading performance. Therefore, even combined, Watanuki and Kato do not teach or suggest the element leading wire as recited in claim 1. As such, claim 1 is patentably distinct from the applied art.

Claims 2-9 are allowable at least of their dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claim 10 recites that the element leading wire is in direct contact with the substrate, and that the element leading wire is electrically connected with the circuit leading wire.

Similar to claim 1, the applied art does not teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is patentably distinct from the applied art.

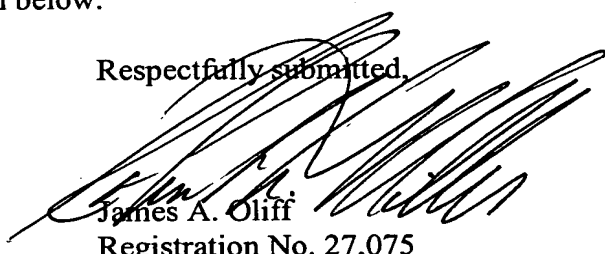
Claims 11-18 are allowable at least of their dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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